

GERMANY MIGHT HOLD UP BLOCKADE

If England Stops Trying To
Starve People By Preventing
Food Supply

BERNSTORFF SEES BRYAN

Berlin Willing For American
Officials To See That Food
Shipped Would Not Be
Seized By The Army; Says
Starvation Campaign as Bad
as War On Merchant Ships

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—The importance of the German government attaches to the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs for its civilian population was emphasized at the State Department today by Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, who conferred with both Secretary Bryan and Counsellor Lansing. While no formal statement regarding the ambassador's call was issued by the department, it was said afterward that he had hinted that warfare on merchant shipping might be relaxed if Germany could be assured of a continuous food supply for her non-combatants population.

The position of the German government, it was explained, is that the proclamation of a war zone and campaign against enemy merchant ships was simply a retaliation against England's alleged violations of the Declaration of London in hindering conditional contraband destined for civilians from reaching Germany. This, according to the German ambassador, is no less inhumane than the campaign on merchant vessels.

While declining to authorize any statement, officials admitted that the American note to Germany was open to the construction that no vessels, either belligerent or neutral, should be sunk unless previously visited and an opportunity given for the taking off of passengers. It was reiterated that while the rules of international law clearly compelled such steps, the position taken was based largely on humanitarian grounds.

Not Intended As Threat.

An official who helped prepare the American note to Germany, pointed out that the strong warning tone of the communication was not intended as a threat, but was a friendly act in a spirit of precaution lest the sinking of an American vessel with Americans aboard inflame public opinion in the United States to a degree which could not be estimated in advance.

The German ambassador, it is understood, did not discuss his government's intentions in connection with the announced campaign on merchant ships, but confined himself to explaining the German point of view on conditional contraband. He holds that the United States in contending for a strict observance of the rights of neutrals, should interest itself in seeing that conditional contraband is not held up on the high seas. The rules of international law even previous to the Declaration of London, the German ambassador was understood to have pointed out, require proof that the articles are destined to belligerent forces. He said the German government had given assurances and also had modified its decrees so that imported foodstuffs would not be appropriated by the army. The German government also is willing to permit American consular officers to witness the sale and distribution of such foodstuffs to determine whether or not they actually are reaching the civilian population of Germany.

Wilhelmina Discussed.

The ambassador discussed the case of the Wilhelmina, an American steamer seized by Great Britain on its journey to Germany with foodstuffs. He believes the American government should take an interest in the safe delivery of the cargo to Germany. The State Department has taken no formal action beyond requesting Great Britain to postpone prize court proceedings until the owners of the vessel, who have submitted a brief to the department, are enabled to discuss the case further here.

The question of cargoes such as that of the Wilhelmina which were shipped before the German decree taking over the national food supply became effective, probably will be covered fully in the American reply to the British note now being transmitted from London and dealing with the general subject of neutral commerce. Most of the communication has been deciphered and it is understood to be full of statistics.

Presumption Not Proof.

As for conditional contraband, the fact that the German government had taken over the supply of grain and

flour is cited by the British government as proof that foodstuffs consigned to civilians really would be used by the army. This point also probably will be discussed at length in the American reply, for in the first note it was stated that a mere presumption as to the destination of conditional contraband, even though shipped to a port held by belligerent forces, was not sufficient reason for preventing the delivery of the shipment, and that in each case proof of the destination must be shown.

Both Ambassadors Page and Gerard sent brief messages to the State Department today declaring they had presented the respective communications to the British and German foreign offices.

AGED NEGRO ROBBED OF LIFE-TIME SAVINGS

Thieves Also Got Funds of Odd Fello
lows Kept In Tin Boxes—Negro
Suspect Arrested.

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Wilmington, Feb. 13.—Robbers a few days ago broke into the house of Isaac Wilson, colored, at the Rock Hill plantation, a few miles from the city, while the old man was away, and stole \$140 in a tin box belonging to the colored Odd Fellows' lodge, of which he is treasurer, and also carried away several sacks and tin boxes filled with the savings of Wilson for the past ten years or more. Wilson told the officers that he did not know how much money he had personally, but that it must run into the hundreds, as he had not counted it in ten years.

The robbers, presumably two negro men, one of whom has been arrested, were afraid to get out of the community with the money, on account of its bulk, except under cover of darkness, so they hid the stolen property under some straw in the woods not far from the residence and near the public road. Thursday night they returned for the hidden property. They were accompanied by several other negroes and the trip was made in an automobile. They were heard by Sam Wilson, colored, who lives nearby, and when he went out to investigate they fired at him five times, but neither shot took effect. A short time later Rufus Williams was arrested in the city. He admitted being in the party that went out for the hidden treasure, but claims that he did not have anything to do with the robbery. Justice George Harris, who is working on the case, and his deputies think otherwise and are pursuing their investigations on the theory that Williams was one of the two negroes who committed the robbery.

BREATH MUZZLE FOR BARBERS

Invention To Deflect Garlic-Laden
Air, But Not To Check Language.

(San Francisco Chronicle.)

Shall the barbers and the dentists wear antiseptic and breath-killing muzzles, or shall such odor-prevention contrivances be attached to the breathing appendages of the patrons, or shall the whole lot be muzzled?

The answer is up to the Legislature. Mere puppets of individuals may discuss the grave problem, but it remains with the Legislature to act. And in acting there is the chance for the Legislature to give Hiram Johnson, the austere Governor, another chance to name a State commission with salaries of \$5,000 per and perquisites.

There are commissions to regulate the tilling the soil, the housing of the people, the harnessing of the waters, and a few dozen other things. Now is the mild suggestion that the commission market be made more complete by the naming of a few select gentlemen to make pure, or at least less harmful and unpleasant, the breath that emanates from man and woman.

C. C. Fritz, 3761 Latimer Place, Oakland, is partially to blame for all this. He invented an antiseptic muzzle to deflect the breath. In a letter to Dr. Donald Curry, secretary of the State Board of Health, he suggested that all barbers and dentists be required to wear such muzzles. Fritz has the invention and is willing to sell the muzzles.

MRS. MCCLELLAN DEAD.

Widow of Union Army Commander
and Candidate for President.

New York, February 13.—News of the death of Nico, France, of Mrs. Ellen Mary McClellan, widow of Major General George B. McClellan, was received today by her son George B. McClellan former mayor of New York. Pneumonia was the immediate cause of her death.

PILES

DON'T BE CUT

Until You Try This Wonderful TREATMENT

The internal method

of treatment is the correct one, and is sanctioned by the best informed physicians and surgeons. Ointments, suppositories and other local applications give only temporary relief.

If you have piles in any form write for a FREE sample of INFALLIBLE PILE TABLETS, and you will bless the day that you read this. Write Today. Infallible Tablet Co., Dept. 153, Marshall, Mich.

FOLK LORE LECTURE AT TRAINING SCHOOL

Dr. Brown of Trinity Talks on
Treasurers of State And Young
Ladies Sing.

Greenville, Feb. 13.—Dr. Frank C. Brown professor of English at Trinity College and secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina Folk-Love Society, delivered an address at East Carolina Teachers' Training school, Saturday evening, February 6, on "The Ballad in North Carolina."

This was the fourth annual address offered to the public by the Sidney Lanier Literary Society. The others heretofore have been delivered by Dr. D. H. Hill, president of A. and M. College, Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, professor of Poe chair of Literature at the University of Virginia, Dr. Benjamin Sledd, professor of English at Wake Forest College.

Miss Bernice Fagan, president of the Sidney Lanier Literary Society, in a gracious manner, welcomed the audience, and President Wright in a few apt words introduced the speaker.

Dr. Brown began his address by telling an old riddle ballad, "What does woman most desire?" The qualities that a simple ballad must have were clearly explained by Dr. Brown. Then he reviewed the history of the ballad and also the history of our store of ballads. During his address he read several interesting ballads, fragments of others and sketched the story of some. At the close "Lord Lovell" and one stanza of "George Collins" were sung by Miss Annie King, and "Bonney Blue Eyes" and "Sweet Jane" were sung by Miss Rubelle Forbes. All of these are found in North Carolina.

The lecture was exceedingly interesting, and the singing of the ballads so aptly illustrated the points Dr. Brown made, and they added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

As secretary and treasurer of the Folk-Love Society of North Carolina Dr. Brown has done a great work in the collecting of ballads. He is very enthusiastic over this work. The State owes him a debt of gratitude for discovering and collecting these ballads and for arousing interest in the folk-lore of the State.

A memorial service to Miss Grace H. Dodge, former president of the national board of the Young Woman's Christian Association, was held on Sunday evening by the Y. W. C. A. of the East Carolina Teachers Training School. Miss Graham, who while a student at Teacher's College, had been in personal touch with Miss Dodge and her work, made the students feel as if they, too, had come under the spell of this great woman.

STATESVILLE GIVES HISTORICAL PLAY

Story of Old Fort Dobbs Dramatized
and Presented in Theatre by Amateur Club.

Statesville, Feb. 13.—The Fort Dobbs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution scored a big success in the presentation of "In the Shadow of Fort Dobbs" at Statesville Theatre and every one who had any part in the event is to be congratulated. The play was strictly local, but it was equal to the productions of many of the noted playwrights and players, and certainly more interesting to the residents of this section than any other could be. The play was dramatized by Miss Amelia Hoffmann, the bright young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hoffmann, of Statesville, from a historical sketch of Fort Dobbs written by Mrs. Minnie Hampton Eliason, of Statesville, and the players were all Statesville people. Much of the history of the old fort, which stood on a hill two miles north of Statesville, was brought out in the play, and with sufficient love and romance to give it general human interest. Furniture which was in use in the home of the early settlers of this section at the time of the fort was used on the stage to make the scenes complete, and a feature of the evening was the presentation to the audience by Dr. P. F. Laugenour of fifty or more lineal descendants of the early settlers who found protection from the Indians in Fort Dobbs. The characters included a band of Indians. Expensive costumes were worn. At the conclusion of the play there was a brief epilogue by Miss Hoffman, and she was given an ovation. A number of out of town people were here to see the play.

Those who played the parts of the leading characters in the play were: Dr. J. F. Carlton, Messrs. A. J. Salley, Herbert Hoffman, James Wilson, D. F. Mayberry, Walker McLain, Moss Salley, R. W. Rickert, Carlton Andrews, J. H. Hall, Jr., Miss Izzard, of Statesville College; Misses Anne Bell Walton, Willie Nicholson, Rosamond Clark, Elvy McElwee, Elva Hartness, Mrs. E. M. Yount, Col. L. B. Bristol, Sheriff J. M. Deaton, Messrs. D. M. Ausley, H. O. Steele, Eugene Morrison, Krider Wood, Edwin Ramsey, Earl White, E. G. Gaither, Frank Brady, A. Y. Alexander, Mitchell Orr and Doctors E. N. Lawrence and T. D. Webb.

Pleasing vocal music was rendered by Mesdames M. C. Wood, R. B. McLaughlin, A. J. Salley and H. O. Steele and Miss Martha Simons.

DANGEROUS FIRE SEASON FORESEEN

Two National Forest Blazes in
January and Snow Reported
Below Normal

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—The possibility of a dangerous spring and summer fire season in the national forests in the west is presaged by reports that two forest fires occurred in January and that the snowfall in much of the Rocky Mountain region and in the foothills has been much below normal. January fires are almost unheard of in the national forests and the snow reports are regarded as especially significant, as they indicate that unless the deficiency is made up the forests will be dry earlier in the spring than usual, with a consequent increase of the fire menace.

The fires occurred in the Pike forest, in Colorado, and the Black Hills forest, in South Dakota, the latter believed to have been of incendiary origin, according to the District Forester at Denver. About 75 acres was burned over all told. They were the only national forest fires reported for January.

The District Forester at Ogden, Utah, in charge of the national forests in Nevada, Utah, and southern Idaho, reported that the snow in this region also is far below normal.

SELF DRUGGING.

U. S. Health Service Points Out Its
Limitations and Dangers.

Don't prescribe medicine for yourself unless you know the amount and kind of drugs in the preparation. Don't take unproven remedies. Don't take poisonous or habit forming drugs. In other words, don't pour medicine of which you know nothing into a body of which you know less.

These are the vital points in an article published by the United States Public Health Service in the Public Health Reports of February 12, 1915, which discusses the limitations of self-medication from a different point of view to that taken by either the ardent advocate of household remedies, or the person who unqualifiedly condemns all medicines. It is obviously the right of every human being to select and take his own medicine, provided he does so without harm to himself or to others. Yet so many changes have taken place since the days when our grandmothers gave us boneset tea or molasses and sulphur as spring medicine that modern self-drugging may be followed by disastrous effects. These may be direct as the result of harmful agents contained in the medicine itself or by reason of an improper method of administration. The human body is a highly complex organism and in order to efficiently guard himself against possible ill effects, it is essentially necessary that an individual medicating himself be thoroughly informed as to the nature of the body processes as well as to the nature and composition of the medicaments which it is contemplated to use.

EMINENT EDUCATORS AT WEST END MEETING

Prof. McBrien Takes Place of Dr.
Claxton—Dr. Carver of Harvard
Will Make Address.

(Special to The News and Observer.)

West End, Feb. 13.—The public school convention which is to be held at West End and under the auspices of the Sandhill Board of Trade, promises to be an interesting and useful event.

Invitations have been sent out to all teachers and others interested in school work in the section, and the people of West End are preparing to serve dinner for the visitors and in other ways make them feel welcome and glad they came.

State Superintendent Joyner will address the assembly on rural school progress in North Carolina.

Prof. J. L. McBrien, school extension agent of the National Bureau of Education, will come in place of Commissioner Claxton. His theme will be the country school of the future.

Dr. Thomas Nixon Carver, Professor of Sociology in Harvard University, advisor on economics to the National Department of Agriculture, author of "Rural Economics," "The Religion Worth Having," and other works will also be present to talk on how to make the country school touch the life of the community more helpfully.

The Board of Trade has a plan for getting an accurate and needed social survey of the entire section by offering prizes to the school children that do the best work in gathering and arranging the facts wanted about their school districts.

The incubator for the hatching of chickens seem to us a new process, yet the Egyptians have long raised chickens in this way, their mode being in the use of heated ovens.